

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047190

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM WEISSMAN

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: CASP - COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S GUIDANCE

1. WITH YOUR CASP DUE IN THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 15, WE HAVE OPTED TO SEND THE CUSTOMARY COUNTRY DIRECTOR GUIDANCE BY CABLE THIS YEAR RATHER THAN LETTER.

2. YOU AND YOUR STAFF ALREADY HAVE RECEIVED GUIDANCE CONCERNING FORMAT, PROCEDURES, AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION. ONLY OTHER NON-SUBSTANTIVE POINT WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR BREVITY. AS VIEWED FROM WASHINGTON, NICARAGUA IS A COUNTRY WHOSE FRIENDSHIP WE VALUE BUT WITH WHICH WE HAVE NO MONUMENTAL PROBLEMS AND IN WHICH WE HAVE NO VITAL INTERESTS. THAT SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE CONTENT AND LENGTH OF THE CASP. WITH A MAXIMUM OF 20 PAGES ALLOTTED FOR SUCH MAJOR COUNTRIES AS BRAZIL, WE WOULD HOPE THAT NICARAGUA COULD BE DEALT WITH IN 10 PAGES OR SO. A CANDID AND TIGHTLY-DRAWN CASP OF THIS LENGTH WILL GET MORE
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ATTENTION AND BE FAR MORE USEFUL THAN A LONGER, LESS FOCUS-

SED STATEMENT.

3. AS FOR SPECIFICS, THIS OFFICE CONSIDERS THAT THE FOLLOWING ISSUES MIGHT WELL BE ADDRESSED THIS YEAR:

(A) HUMAN RIGHTS. WILL NEGATIVE TRENDS IN THIS AREA IMPINGE ON OUR OTHER INTERESTS AND PROGRAMS IN NICARAGUA? HOW CAN WE BRING OUR INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON THE GON TO AVOID OR AMELIORATE DETERIORATION OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD?

(B) WORLD ORDER. HOW AND TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD WE EXERT OURSELVES TO RETAIN AN ACCEPTABLE DEGREE OF NICARAGUAN SUPPORT IN INTERNATIONAL FORA? HOW WILL OUR OTHER INTERESTS BE AFFECTED BY THIS EFFORT? HOW CAN WE BEST RESPOND TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S EXPRESSED ANXIETY OVER CUBAN INTERVENTION AND HIS PERCEPTION OF U.S. REACTION? WILL WE NEED TO GUARD AGAINST ANY EXPLOITATION OF THIS THEME TO MANIPULATE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP?

(C) ECONOMIC/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. HOW MUCH DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD WE EXTEND, AND TO WHAT ENDS? HOW CAN WE BEST MAINTAIN THE NON-PARTISAN, HUMANITARIAN CHARACTER OF THE PROGRAM?

(D) MILITARY ISSUES. THESE, IN OUR VIEW, SHOULD BE TREATED UNDER THE "TWO-WAY COMMUNICATIONS" RUBRIC, RATHER THAN "U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE". AS WE SEE THEM, THEY INCLUDE: HOW CAN WE BOTH SLOW DOWN SUBREGIONAL ARMS PURCHASES AND STILL EASE OUT OF OUR ARMS-VENDING ROLE? CAN WE RECONCILE THIS WITH THE GON'S REPORTED DRIVE TO MODERNIZE THE GUARDIA? HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN INFLUENCE AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GUARDIA WHEN AND IF THE MILGP'S ARE PHASED OUT?

(E) CACM. SHOULD WE PUSH INTEGRATION OR SUPPORT ONLY WHAT THE CENTRAL AMERICANS DECIDE THEMSELVES? WHY AND HOW?

4. IN ADDITION TO THESE SPECIFIC ISSUES, YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS NICARAGUA IN THE CONTEXT OF SOME OF THE POINTS
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RAISED IN BILL ROGERS' MONTHLY LETTERS AND THE QUESTIONS I DISTRIBUTED AT THE CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN GUATEMALA. WE ARE STILL PLANNING A REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT, AND YOUR INPUT NOW WOULD HELP SHAPE OUR APPROACH TO ITS FORMULATION.

5. DISTRIBUTION OF THIS TELEGRAM HAS BEEN LIMITED TO ARA ONLY. ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING ITS CONTENTS SHOULD

BE SIMILARLY RESTRICTED. INGERSOLL

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